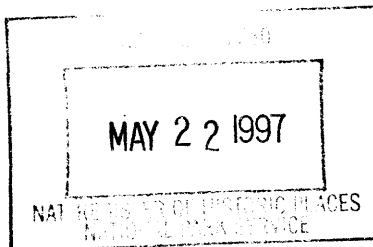


United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form



This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Cousins Island Chapel

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

2. Location

street & number East side of Cousins Road, 1.9 miles southeast of  
Junction with Morton Road N/A not for publication

city or town Cousins Island N/A vicinity

state Maine code ME county Cumberland code 005 zip code 04096

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this  nomination  request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant  nationally  statewide  locally. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

*[Signature]* 5/18/97  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
Maine Historic Preservation Commission  
State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property  meets  does not meet the National Register criteria. ( See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register.  See continuation sheet.
- determined eligible for the National Register  See continuation sheet.
- determined not eligible for the National Register.
- removed from the National Register.
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

*[Signature]* 6-20-97  
Signature of the Keeper Date of Action  
Edson R. Beall

Cousins Island Chapel  
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine  
County and State

**5. Classification**

**Ownership of Property**  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

**Category of Property**  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

**Number of Resources within Property**  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
1		buildings
		sites
		structures
		objects
1	0	Total

**Name of related multiple property listing**  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**

0

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Religion/Religious Facility

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Gothic

Shingle Style

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone Posts

walls Wood/Wood Shingles

roof Asphalt

other Hip Roofed Entry Porch

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Cousins Island Chapel

Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
XX C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- XX A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Architecture

Period of Significance

1894-95

Significant Dates

1894-95

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey #
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record #

Primary location of additional data:

- XX State Historic Preservation Office
Other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
Other

Name of repository:

Cousins Island Chapel  
Name of Property

Cumberland, Maine  
County and State

**10. Geographical Data**

**Acreeage of Property** Less Than 1

**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 9	4 0 8 1 0 0	4 8 4 5 7 2 0
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2			

3			
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4			

See continuation sheet

**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

**11. Form Prepared By**

name/title Kirk F. Mohney, Architectural Historian

organization Maine Historic Preservation Commission date April, 1997

street & number 55 Capitol St., 65 State House Station telephone 207/287-2132

city or town Augusta, state Maine zip code 04333-0065

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps**

A **USGS map** (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs**

Representative **black and white photographs** of the property.

**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name \_\_\_\_\_

street & number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*)

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

COUSINS ISLAND CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number   7   Page   2  

---

The Cousins Island Chapel is a rectangular frame building that is sheathed primarily in wood shingles although board-and-batten siding is utilized on the south gable end. It is covered by a steeply pitched roof, and it has a deep, hipped roof entrance porch at the southwest corner. The chapel appears to rest on posts.

Oriented with its gable ends perpendicular to the road, the west facing side elevation contains the entrance. The paneled two-leaf door is sheltered by the tall roof which is supported by a pair of posts resting on plinths. Low walls covered in shingles extend between the plinths and the main wall. Narrow partitions that project from the wall surface further delineate the boundary of the entrance. To the north is a bank of seven one-over-one double hung sash windows.

The north gable end contains a rectangular shed roof apse containing a trio of one-over-one double-hung windows, the upper sash of which have lancet arches. Decorative sawn brackets support the lower edge of the roof overhang at a point where the eaves make a slight flare. The south gable end is dominated by three long one-over-one windows whose upper sash are treated in a similar fashion to those in the apse. A stained glass window occupies the central sash. Originally, there were five windows in this group, the outer ones having been removed sometime after the mid 1930s. The wall surface framed by the gable is sheathed in board-and-batten siding, and the brackets are repeated. There is a second set of seven windows on the east side elevation opposite those on the west side, as well as a pair near the southeast corner. All have the lancet arch treatment of the upper sash.

Inside, the chapel is finished entirely with narrow tongue and groove sheathing that is applied in two patterns: vertically for the wainscot and the angled upper surface of the walls, and diagonally on the lower wall surface and on the end walls and apse. The wainscot and apse have a stained finish whereas the balance of the woodwork is painted. Symmetrically molded surrounds with corner blocks frame the doors and windows. A central aisle separates the two groups of chairs, at the end of which is a raised platform that extends into the apse. The original light fixtures consisting of a central chandelier and four wall lamps remain. They have been converted to electrical fixtures.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

COUSINS ISLAND CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number   8   Page   2  

---

Constructed in the winter of 1894-95, the Cousins Island Chapel is a modest wooden frame building with Gothic detailing. It was built by and for the residents of Cousins and Littlejohns islands. The chapel is eligible for nomination to the Register under criterion C for its local architectural significance. Criteria Consideration A also applies by virtue of its religious function.

According to the records of the Baptist Church of Yarmouth, a branch Church was organized on Cousins Island in the summer of 1877. This congregation met in various places on the island until the present chapel was erected on a plot of land given by Margaret Talbot. Its construction was undertaken with a great deal of volunteer labor on the part of local residents and craftsmen. As noted in the Baptist Church records:

...in November we got our lumber and November 16 commenced to build. The Chapel was completed except for furnishings January 3d. Capt. Sawyer, who freighted the lumber, gave in two-thirds of the freight bill. One hundred and fifty-four days work were given here. Three joiners from Yarmouth each gave a day's work and a painter from Yarmouth gave us two days work. One joiner gave money and several days work on the erection of the building, then when we came to furnishing sent up the chairs and helped on other arrangements until everything was completed, free of charge. The chandelier and wall lamps complete were given by the Central Society (Universalist Church) at Yarmouth. The Bible for the desk by J. T. Nowell of Melrose.

The dedication was presided over by the ministers of the Yarmouth Baptist and Congregational Churches, as well as by the minister of the Free Baptist Church in Portland, and a minister from Providence, Rhode Island. Although in its early history the congregation was loosely affiliated with the Baptist Church of Yarmouth, the chapel has served as an ecumenical center for the entire community. The chapel was regularly used through World War II when it was closed for several years. In the mid 1950s interest in reviving the chapel's function led to the formation of a group that continues to maintain the building and to hold services in it during the summer months.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places**  
**Continuation Sheet**

COUSINS ISLAND CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

Section number 8 Page 3

---

Architecturally, the Cousins Island Chapel is part of a group of religious buildings erected in Maine during the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries in the popular summer colonies and on several offshore islands (sometimes they were one and the same). Oftentimes these chapels were substantial architect designed buildings (e.g. Islesboro, Hancock Point, Louds Island, Seal Harbor) which were erected primarily through the interest and funding of summer residents. In contrast, the chapel built on Cousins Island was a more modest undertaking supported largely by year round residents. Nevertheless, it has a degree of architectural pretension that separates it from the majority of buildings on the island. In its lancet arched windows, steeply pitched roof, and board-and-batten siding on one end, the chapel exhibits elements of the Gothic Revival, whereas its principal covering of wood shingles and the design of its entrance porch are related to the Shingle Style. Unfortunately, the name of its designer is as yet unknown.

**United States Department of the Interior**  
National Park Service

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

COUSINS ISLAND CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

**Section number**   9   **Page**   2  

---

“The Island Chapel, Cousins Island, Maine.” Summer, 1955. Typescript copy on file at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission, Augusta.



**United States Department of the Interior**  
**National Park Service**

# **National Register of Historic Places**

## **Continuation Sheet**

COUSINS ISLAND CHAPEL

CUMBERLAND, MAINE

**Section number**   10   **Page**   2  

---

### **Verbal Boundary Description**

The nominated property occupies the Town of Yarmouth tax map 55, Lot 15.

### **Boundary Justification**

The boundary embraces the entire lot historically associated with the Cousins Island Chapel.